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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **THE
BLANCHETTE ROCKEFELLER NEUROSCIENCE
INSTITUTE** [US/US]; 9601 Medical Center Drive,
Rockville MD 20850 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **ALKON, Daniel, L.**
[US/US]; 6701 Bonaventura Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-
4026 (US). **NELSON, Thomas, J.** [US/US]; 5650 Hogen-
hill Terrace, Rockville MD 20853 (US).

(74) Agents: **STOLE, Einar** et al.; Milbank, Tweed Hadley
& McCloy LLP, 1825 International Square Building, 1825
Eye Street, N.W. #1100, Washington, DC 20006 (US).

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(54) Title: METHOD FOR ISOLATING SUBPOPULATIONS OF PROTEINS THAT ENGAGE IN PROTEIN-PROTEIN INTER-
ACTIONS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method for isolating and identifying proteins participating in protein-protein interactions in a complex mixture. The method uses a chemically reactive supporting matrix to isolate proteins that in turn non-covalently bind other proteins. The supporting matrix is isolated, and the non-covalently bound proteins are subsequently released for analysis. Because the proteins are accessible to chemical manipulation at both the binding and release steps, identification of the non-covalently bound proteins yields information on specific classes of interacting proteins, such as calcium-dependent or substrate-dependent protein interactions. This permits selection of a subpopulation of proteins from a complex mixture on the basis of specified interaction criteria. The method has the advantage of screening the entire proteome simultaneously, unlike two-hybrid systems or phage display methods which can only detect proteins binding to a single bait protein at a time. The method is applicable to the study of protein-protein interactions in biopsy and autopsy specimens, to the study of protein-protein interactions in the presence of signalling molecules, pharmacological agents or toxins, and for comparison of diseased and normal tissues or cancerous and untransformed cells.

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